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Docket Clerk, Marketing Order Administration Branch

Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA

1400 Independence Ave, SW, Stop 0237

Washington, DC 20250

RECEIVED

**Peter Rabbit Farms**

*It has to be fresh for Peter Rabbit*

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: Proposed Change in Regulatory

Periods for Table Grapes, Coachella Valley

Docket No. FV03-925-1PR

Federal Register Notices of May 25, 2005, p. 30001;

July 25, 2005, p. 42513; and September 27, 2005, p. 56378

I am pleased to provide these comments on the proposed rule to change the effective dates of the table grape marketing order from April 20-August 15 to April 1-July 10.

I am a third generation grower of table grapes in the Coachella Valley and have seen firsthand the benefits of our federal marketing order.

Harvest in the Coachella Valley begins at different times and can range anywhere from late April to mid-May depending on weather conditions. Many of the grapes arriving from Chile are sub-standard when they arrive in our marketplace. As a result, we have suffered from lower market prices since these poor quality grapes have had a depressing effect on the market.

These Chilean grapes need to be inspected to ensure consumers are receiving the quality grapes they expect.

For this reason, it is important that the "start date" of April 1 be the beginning of the regulatory period for this marketing order. Even though, we may not be harvesting at that time, this will insure having a quality product on the market just before and during our harvest season. This will guarantee a consistently better product to the consumer, which, after all, is the purpose of having the marketing order.

And finally, I understand the comment period for this proposed change has been extended several times. Given the harm that this industry faces, I urge you to put this rule change in place for the 2006 crop year. The Chileans have easy access to all of the trade data they are seeking. The Chilean government has all of this information and has probably already provided it to them. Please reject these tactics and issue a final rule as soon as possible.

Thank you for your efforts on this important rule.

Sincerely

John Powell, Jr.